

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 4 APRIL 2004

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

Reception reports on the 10,130 MHz experimental relay will be appreciated.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za and on packet bulletin boards.

In the news today:

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE SARL AT THE 2004 AGM

DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE AGM

GUEST SPEAKER'S SPEECH AT THE ANNUAL DINNER

AWARDS PRESENTED AT THE DINNER

Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items. Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

SARL NEWS invites clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to amateurs on the web site of the SARL, which is www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English.

You are listening to ZS6SRL.

The news follows in detail.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Reflecting on this term of office I can't help but see it as a challenging and turbulent year, while at the same time this was a year that has put the South African Radio League and indeed Amateur Radio on a firm footing for the future.

Financially we achieved an enormous amount. We introduced teleconferencing for meetings, we severely limited travel expenses, and conducted a membership drive. We are happy to report that we are now in a stable financial position, and we will end this year with a positive bank balance, as well as having restored all of the Loewenstein and Tinus Lange Trust monies.

We appreciate the support of members in achieving these financial goals and acknowledge that it came with some sacrifices. Radio ZS was perhaps the main

item to be sacrificed. We are pleased to announce that due to recent developments and the generosity of The Quarto Press we will be producing 4 printed copies of Radio ZS this coming year. For this we can congratulate ourselves and say “Thank you” for the understanding and goodwill that allowed this to happen.

Membership was very slow in the beginning, but has crept up to almost the budgeted number of 1150.

We have also been able to rejoin the International Amateur Radio Union, thanks to the South African Amateur Radio Development Trust who took the fundraising initiative and started the fund with a R5000 donation. Thank you to all who have contributed to the initiative and have made it possible.

On the regulatory front the SARL has made great progress with the authorities to get the modernisation of the Amateur Radio Licensing back on track. The regulations have now been published for public comment and I am optimistic that new and expanded licences conditions will soon be a reality.

We were even able to get an opinion aired on Summit TV on the issue of PLCs.

We have significantly improved our communication with clubs and members, having sent 20 emails, and packet communication. The introduction of the ICASA page on the website has enabled us to keep members up to date on our progress with the authorities. Having said this, I believe that this is one of the areas that we can improve further.

We have made great strides in education. We are upgrading the RAE course, re-looking at the questions and the method of examinations.

There is however a significant amount of work still to be done in various areas of our operation, our representation and participation in the technical forums, our ability to quickly respond to member’s emails and faxes, and general administrative activities. Now that we have stability we can address these issues.

For the SARL to serve Amateur Radio to the fullest we need a strong representative membership base. We can only achieve that with the support of all radio amateurs in South Africa. We have made good progress but just need that extra boost. If you have not already joined the ranks, do it now.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the council, office staff and all of the members that supported us through this year. Without your participation and support none of this would have been possible: Thank you!

Looking forward to a dynamic year ahead with an even better service level to you our members.

Graham Hartlett ZS6GJH.

DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE AGM

In light of the fact that no-one had received the notice of the AGM and other documents via the postal system, the meeting first discussed the status of this meeting. There were 56 members present in person, and a further 197 proxies were held by members present. The meeting therefore reflected just under 25% of the current membership. All members present had received the notices via email, and members reported that clubs had also distributed the documents amongst their members.

It was agreed by the meeting that the AGM should continue, and that the incoming Council should negotiate with any parties who may object, and conduct a subsequent ratification exercise amongst all members should this appear to be necessary.

The subscriptions for 2004-2005 were agreed to be as follows:

Ordinary member R 290 pa Senior member R 230 pa Family member R 100 pa
Affiliated club R 290 pa Foreign member R 350 pa

The subscription fee will include four issues of Radio ZS in printed form, as well as membership of the QSL bureau. There will therefore be no optional items as previously proposed. In order to reduce the cost of running the QSL bureau, all users will be required to provide stamped, self-addressed envelopes to be used for incoming QSL cards. Outgoing QSL cards will be limited to 1000 cards pa as at present.

The formal motions were agreed as follows:

Motion 1: Withdrawn

Motion 2: Carried

Motion 3: Part 1: Withdrawn Part 2: Withdrawn Part 3: Withdrawn

In regard to the last point, the meeting requested Council to examine the Constitution and Rules of the SARL, and to propose amendments to take into account the internet and email and opportunities for streamlining SARL formal procedures in the future.

Discussion point 1: Withdrawn

Discussion point 2: Withdrawn after clarification

NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL

Bill Norval ZS5KD withdrew his nomination for Council. As the number of nominations is less than the number of positions available on Council, the following were therefore declared elected to Council for the year 2004-2005.

Andrew Roos - ZS1AN Barry Murrell - ZR2DX Dave Perry - ZS1SG Dennis Green - ZS4BS Derek Gravett - ZS5Y (previously ZS6DDG) Graham Hartlett - ZS6GJH Henry Chamberlain - ZS1AAZ John Fielding - ZS5JF John Watson - ZS6ABJ Kobus Conradie - ZR6D Matt Greyvensteyn - ZS1MJJ Olivier van Staden - ZS1OLI Rassie Erasmus - ZS1YT Richard Seddon - ZS2CLI

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT

At the first Council meeting which was held immediately after the AGM, the following office-holders were elected:

President - Graham Hartlett ZS6GJH Vice-President - Rassie Erasmus ZS1YT
Secretary - Henry Chamberlain ZS1AAZ The position of treasurer was not immediately filled.

ADDRESS BY THE GUEST SPEAKER AT THE ANNUAL DINNER

The guest speaker at this year's dinner was Mr Wojtek Skowronski, the General Manager, Engineering Technology of ICASA.

Mr Skowronski talked on "PLC in Africa". He discussed the background in the development of PLC; The regulatory perspective on PLC technology; The potential for interference; Some of the Pros and Cons; and he examined the provision of communication services by municipalities to rate-payers by means of cellular and other technologies, finishing up with future scenarios and development around PLC.

At the time of compilation of this bulletin Sarlnews did not have a copy of Mr Skowronski's speech and we trust that in a following bulletin we can bring listeners more detail of what he said.

SARL AWARDS

A list follows of awards that were handed over during the dinner which took place yesterday evening. Congratulations to all the recipients, may their achievements be an inspiration to others to also do their best.

Jack Twine award.

Awarded in recognition of the sterling work done in supervising the running of the SARL QSL bureau and overseeing the office of the NARC.

Francois Botha, ZS6BUU.

Operating Awards.

Barney Joel Trotrophy to the Pretoria Amateur Radio Club and the Bloemfontein Radio Amateur Club.

Icom Excellence award to Barry Fletcher, ZS1FJ.

Radio ZS Awards.

J J Pienaar Trophy to Andrew Roos, ZS1AN, for his article titled "Why we should retain a Morse Code requirement for the unrestricted amateur license" in the July-September edition of Radio ZS.

Radio ZS Shield for the best support off Radio ZS to Mike Bosch, ZS2FM, and Eddie Leighton, ZS6BNE.

Gary Immelman Radio Amateur Heritage floating trophy to Mike Bosch, ZS2FM, for his article "The Digital Era" in the Oktober-Desember edition of Radio ZS.

Technical Awards.

Arland Ussher Golden Pen Award for the candidate with the highest score in the RAE to E.F.Fynn, ZR5EF, of Durban.

Tinus Lange 7066 Technical Award, a framed certificate and a cheque of R350 to Andrew Roos, ZS1AN, for his software project for antenna design.

Trophies and certificates were also handed to the winning individuals and clubs as well as those who were in the 2nd and 3rd positions in the various competitions during the past year. They are:

Olivier van Staden, ZS1OLI; Andre Mulder ZS2AJ Donovan van Loggerenberg, ZS2DL; Al Akers, ZS2U; Jan Botha, ZS4JAN, (2); Nico Skoonwinkel, ZS4NS; Bernie van der Walt, ZS4TX, (4); Ronald Richmond, ZS5ABD; Louis de Bruin, ZS5LP; Gawie Hoon, ZS5R; Peter Smith, ZS5SK; Willie Axford, ZS5WI; Richard Ussher, ZR6RDU; Francois Botha, ZS6BUU; Michael Roodt, 7P8BHF (ZS6BHF); Derek Gravett, ZS6DDG; Rudi Venter, ZS6DX; Emil Bohme, ZS6EGB; Paul Gosselin, ZS6GBJ; Bert Howes ;ZS6HS; Kevin Kloke, ZS6KEV; Frikkie Steyn, ZS6MF; Pieter Jacobs, ZS6XT (2); Hal Lund, ZS6WB; Cape Town Amateurradiosentrum, ZS1CT; Zululand ARK, ZS5ZLB; Magalies RAK, ZS6MRK; Pretoria Amateur Radioklub, ZS6PTA (2); Sandton ARK, ZS6STN (2).

CLOSING DATE FOR RAE ENROLMENT

The closing date for enrolment for the May RAE is Friday 16 April. All candidates must by that date have submitted their completed application forms and have paid the examination fee of R450-00 to the SARL. Enrolment forms are available on the SARL web www.sarl.org.za.

Any clubs wishing to register as examination centres must also do it before 16 April. Please note that NO late registrations can be accepted.

DATES TO REMEMBER Sunday 11th April the SARL HAMNET 40-Metre Simulated Emergency Contest from 14:00 to 16:00 CAT. 16th April closing date for the May RAE. The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 815, 9 750, and 7 082 kHz and 145,625 MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban 145,750 MHz in Pretoria and 438,800 in the Sandton area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz.

Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by George, ZS6NE, and read byfrom..... as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX